THE FORUM
FLORISSANT VALLEY

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Mental Health Crisis at Florissant Valley Led to June Campus Lockdown

Vienna I. Austin | Editor

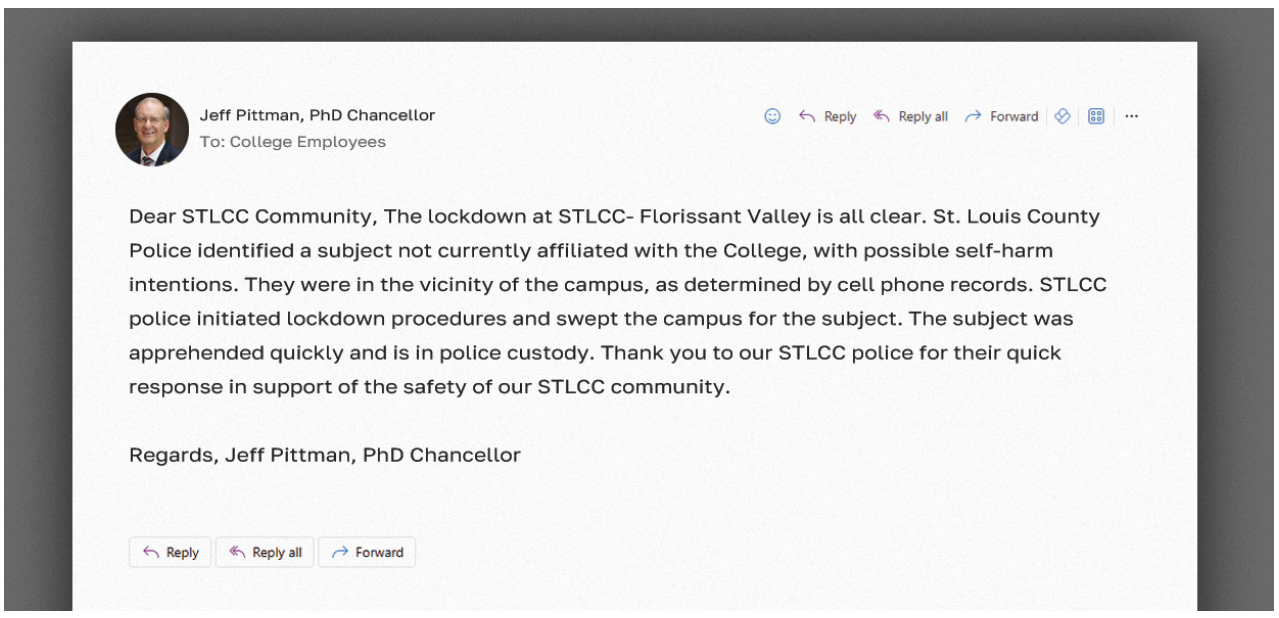
At around 10:30 a.m. on June 25, STLCC students and staff were alerted that the Florissant Valley campus had been put under lockdown. The notice, sent through the college's emergency alert system, instructed those on campus at the time to shelter in place immediately, explaining "officers are responding to a serious situation on the STLCC Florissant Valley campus." Those sheltering were told to find a room with a locking door, close windows and blinds, and to "not leave a safe space until further instructions indicate it is safe to do so." No further information was given until the lockdown was lifted roughly 15 minutes later.

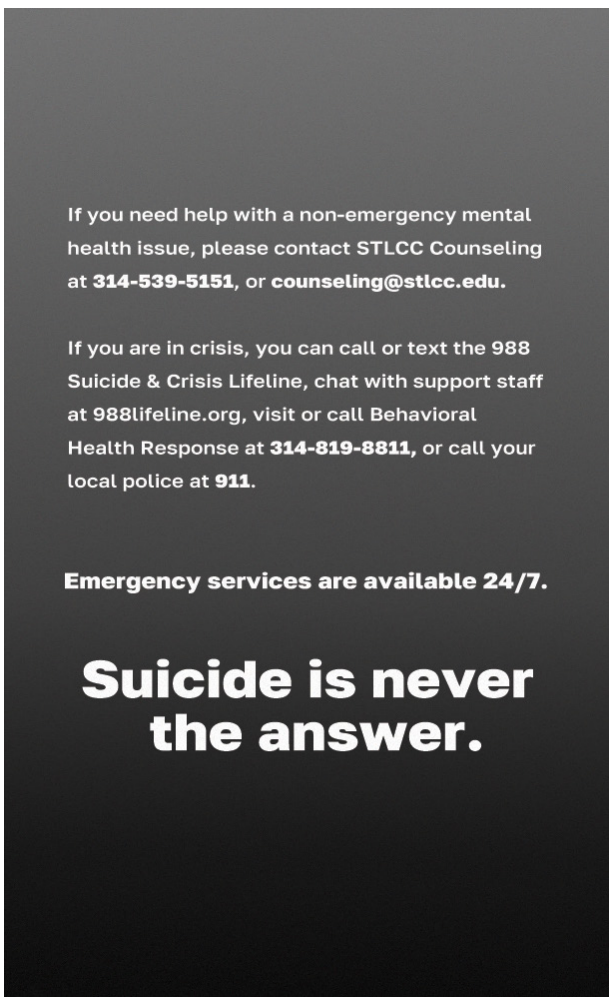
After the incident, STLCC Chancellor Jeff Pittman emailed a short statement to college employees: "Dear STLCC Community, The lockdown at STLCC-Florissant Valley is all clear. St. Louis County Police identified a subject not currently affiliated with the College, with possible self-harm intentions. They were in the vicinity of the campus, as determined by cell phone records. STLCC police initiated lockdown procedures and swept the campus for the subject. The subject was apprehended quickly and is in police custody. Thank you to our STLCC police for their quick response in support of the safety of our STLCC community. Regards, Jeff Pittman, PhD Chancellor"

The Forum reached out to STLCC Campus Police Captain Benjamin Talley for more information on the lockdown. According to him, "the subject was located in the first-floor men's restroom of the Instructional Resources Building. He was found hiding in a bathroom stall. STLCCPD Officers were able to take the subject into protective custody with no injuries to the subject or Officers." The subject was having a mental health crisis and was unarmed, said Talley. The police investigation found that he did not pose a threat to the safety of STLCC students or staff; rather, the lockdown and shelter in place order was sent "out of an abundance of caution following emergency notification procedures from the Clery Act." STLCC campus police were notified about the emergency by The St. Louis County Police Department, who aided campus police in searching Flo Valley.

"I am proud of the response from all the STLCCPD staff members who aided during this incident. Their quick response and action kept the STLCC Florissant Valley Community safe," Benjamin Talley wrote in an email. In the same email, he noted that there are mental health support services for those on campus: "If you need help with a non-emergency mental health issue, please contact STLCC Counseling at 314-539-5151, or counseling@stlcc.edu." If you are in crisis, you can call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, chat with support staff at 988lifeline.org, visit or call Behavioral Health Response at 314-819-8811, or call your local police at 911.

Emergency services are available 24/7. Suicide is never the answer.





Student Editor Position Open at The Forum Newspaper

This person will report to the faculty adviser for newspaper and under indirect supervision, prepares, edits, formats, and writes articles for print and/or the website. Ensures all materials meet established standards of appearance and content.

Position requires:

a) editing, proofreading, and preparing material for publication

b) overseeing production schedules;

c) serving as liaison between the publication and authors, printers, and/or publishers/administration;

d) leading/guiding volunteer student staff performing related work.

If you like to write or are interested in a career in mass media or journalism, please contact **Mary Horner**, faculty advisor at **mhorner@stlcc.edu** or apply directly online through the STLCC website.

Students enrolled at any STLCC campus are encouraged to apply!

Ms. Missouri Senior America Pageant

The Ms. Missouri Pageant was held at the Florissant Performing Arts Center earlier this year. The top three winners are from North County. The court consists of Queen Gloria Jean Vann from Jennings, 1st Runner-Up Ruth Lee from Florissant, and 2nd Runner-Up Rhonda Johnson-Foster from Florissant.

The Forum Editorial Team

Student Editor | Vienna I. Austin

Staff Writer | Stephanie Licklider

Staff Writer | Abby Westhoff

Staff Writer | Collin Brinkley

Staff Writer | Kevin Hawkins

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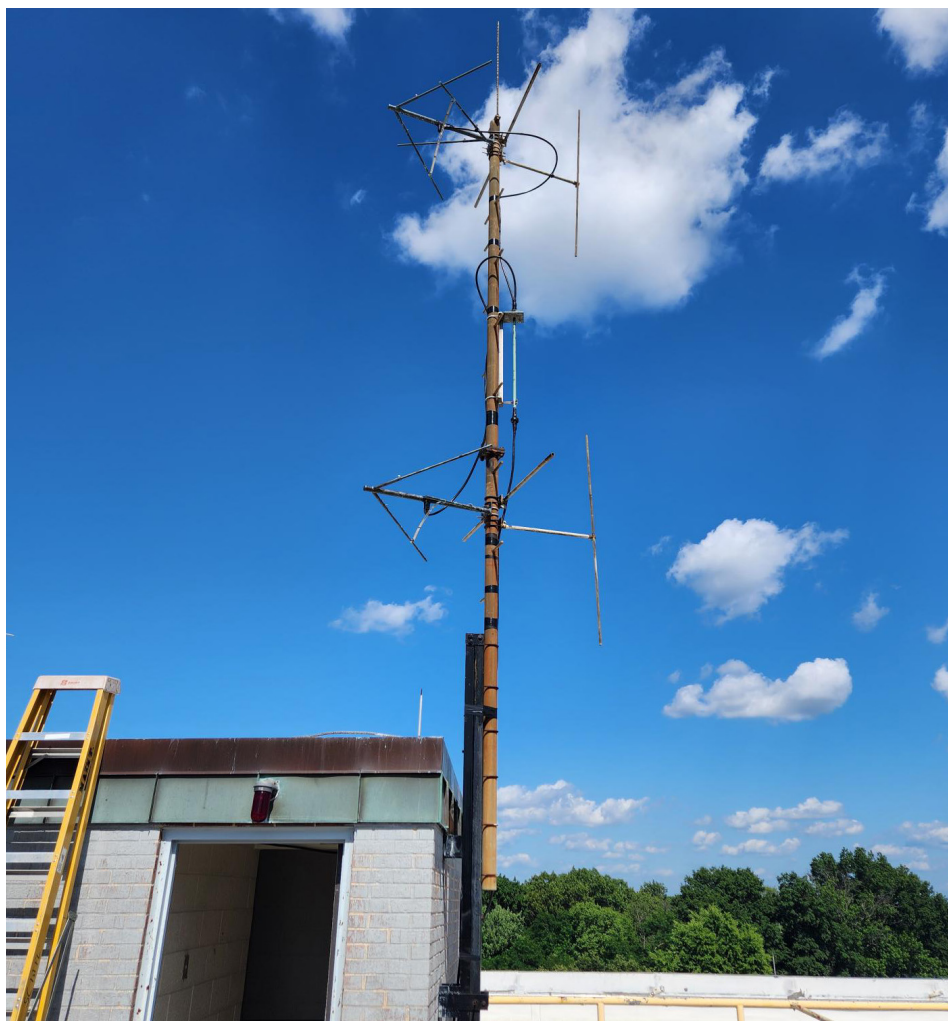


Radio Blues: KCFV *Battles* against *Equipment Damage*

Collin Brinkley | Staff Writer

KCFV 89.5, the voice of Florissant Valley, has been hit with another setback just after making its long-awaited return to the airwaves. The campus radio station is, unfortunately, off the air again—this time due to a failed air conditioning unit in the transmitter room.

While it's not yet clear whether the outage was caused by the intense heat or by power feedback from prior antenna damage, an investigation is currently underway. The timeline for repairs could range anywhere from 2 to 6 weeks.

This latest hiccup comes shortly after a much longer outage earlier this year. As STLCC's spring break began on March 14, KCFV's antenna sustained severe storm damage. The antenna, which had been in service for over 22 years, suffered corrosion and water damage to the cabling and connectors—many of which had been exposed to the elements for decades. Critically, the connection to the power divider—the device that splits the transmitter's signal evenly between the antenna's two components—was completely detached.

According to Station Manager Paul Huddleston, this issue was compounded by the fact that the cabling from that unit had damaged insulation on the equipment, contributing to dangerous power feedback. "All of these factors contributed to a transmitter power feedback that was outside of the operating limits of the transmitter, causing it to shut down to protect itself from damage," said Huddleston. KCFV was completely off the air for just over three months as a result.

Repairs finally began on July 1 and were completed the following day, July 2, marking the station's long-awaited return to FM broadcasting—but on the evening of July 3, the station was forced to stop broadcasting by an "unexpected shutdown" once again.

Huddleston explained, "the internal temperature of the transmitter was 70 degrees Celsius (158 degrees Fahrenheit) and that is well outside of the normal operating range of 40-55 degrees Celsius (104-131 degrees Fahrenheit)."

Huddleston noted that despite the setbacks, KCFV—or The Wave—is still a great locale for students to express their creativity and connect to their campus community. "KCFV is dedicated to providing a fun interactive learning environment for those interested in media creation, public speaking, writing, and audio and video creation and editing as well as providing a place for students to find music and information they may not have been exposed to on the curated, algorithm-directed feeds they are accustomed to listening to on sites like Spotify and YouTube." He continued, "We are a college radio station, non commercial, and that gives us the ability to be closer to our community and their needs. Our community is the students of STLCC and the greater North County area, and we look to return to serving them as soon as we can."

For those who still need their KCFV fix, don't worry—you can still catch The Wave online at rdo.to/kcfv, where streaming continues uninterrupted even when the on-air signal is down.

If you've ever dreamed of being on the mic yourself, MCM-219: Multimedia Applications is being offered this fall. The hands-on course puts students at the helm of a weekly three-hour radio show, which they get to design, produce, and present. Only 10 seats remain, so talk to your advisor and save a seat while they're still hot

Fall Registration Is Open

Take charge of your future today.
Schedule a meeting with your student success advisor!

Advising Email:
advising@stlcc.edu

Advising Phone Number:
314-539-5465

Advising Hours:

Monday-Thursday | 8 a.m.-6 p.m. **Friday** | 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Advising Locations:

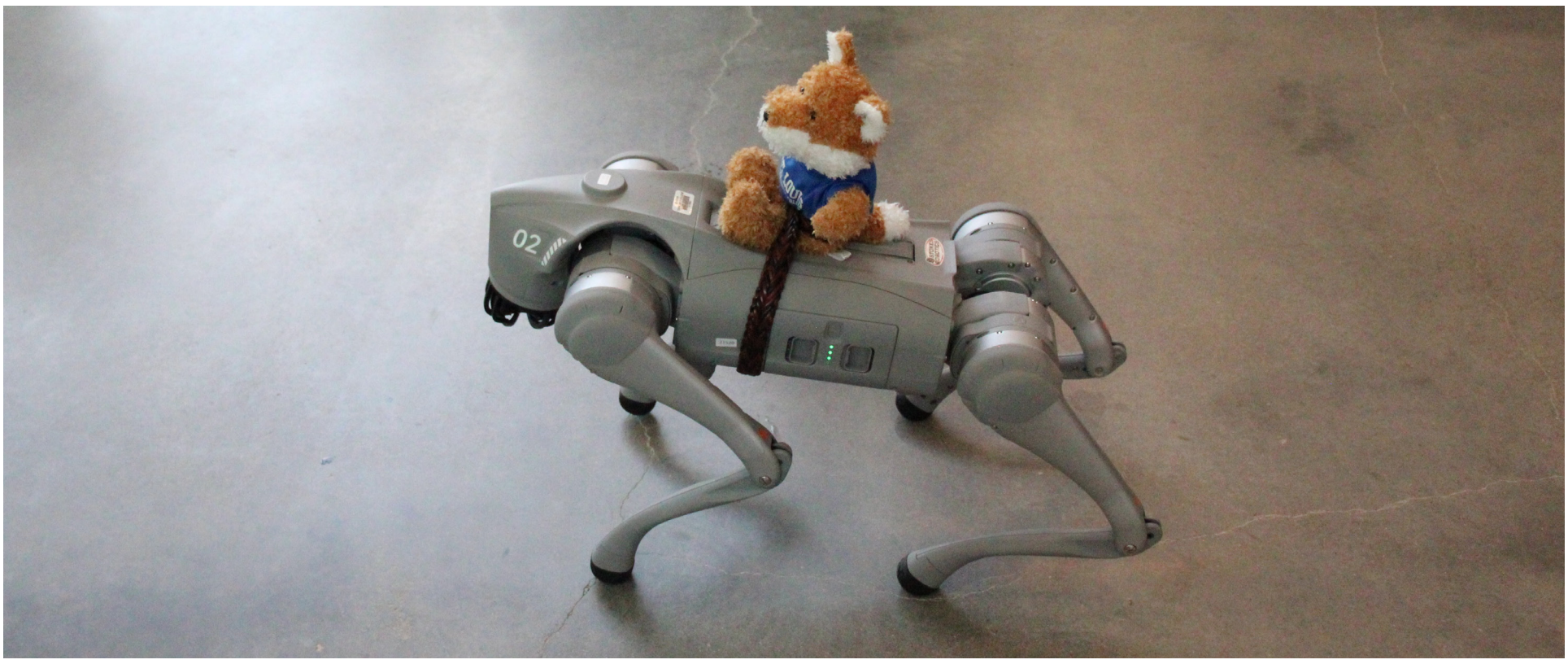
Florissant Valley: Administration 158

Forest Park: Student Center 200

Meramec: Administration/Clark Hall 202

South County: Student Services Area

Wildwood: Student Services Area



Photos courtesy of Stephanie Licklider

Advanced Manufacturing Center *Open House*

Stephanie Licklider | Staff Writer

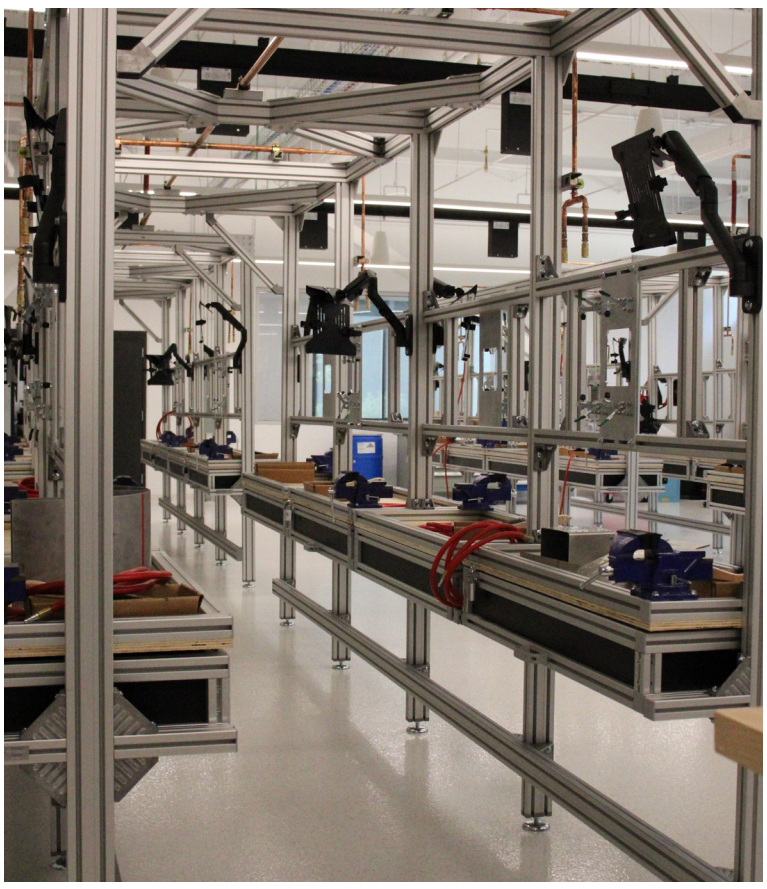
The future has arrived at STLCC! As part of STLCC Transformed, the Open House for the Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC) was held July 10 on the Florissant Valley Campus. The AMC is the second state-of-the-art facility to open in 2025, following the Nursing and Health Services Center in February.

During the event, there were several program coordinators, tables for all the STLCC campus aides and activities, as well as an appearance by Campus President Elizabeth Perkins, STLCC Chancellor Jeff Pittman, Mayor of Ferguson, Ella M. Jones along with Archie the Fox and a Robot Dog.

This three-story building unites short-term career training, such as HVAC and Boeing, and degree and certificate programs such as Biomedical Electronics Technician and Engineering Technology. It is also the new home of the Dual Credit and STEM offices, along with the new and amazing remote aircraft pilot certificate, as well as the business and accounting programs.

Among the other student spaces for quiet study, there is an auditorium style seating for classes, lectures, speaking events and other campus or student activities. The AMC is one of six new buildings across the four main campuses. The approximately $450 million-dollar, district-wide construction project is intended to update the college's facilities.

This new building is a great addition to the FV campus. If you couldn't attend the Open House, the building is open for you to tour at your leisure. For more information or to view photos of the progress of its construction or a 3d model tour, go to stlcc.edu/transformed.



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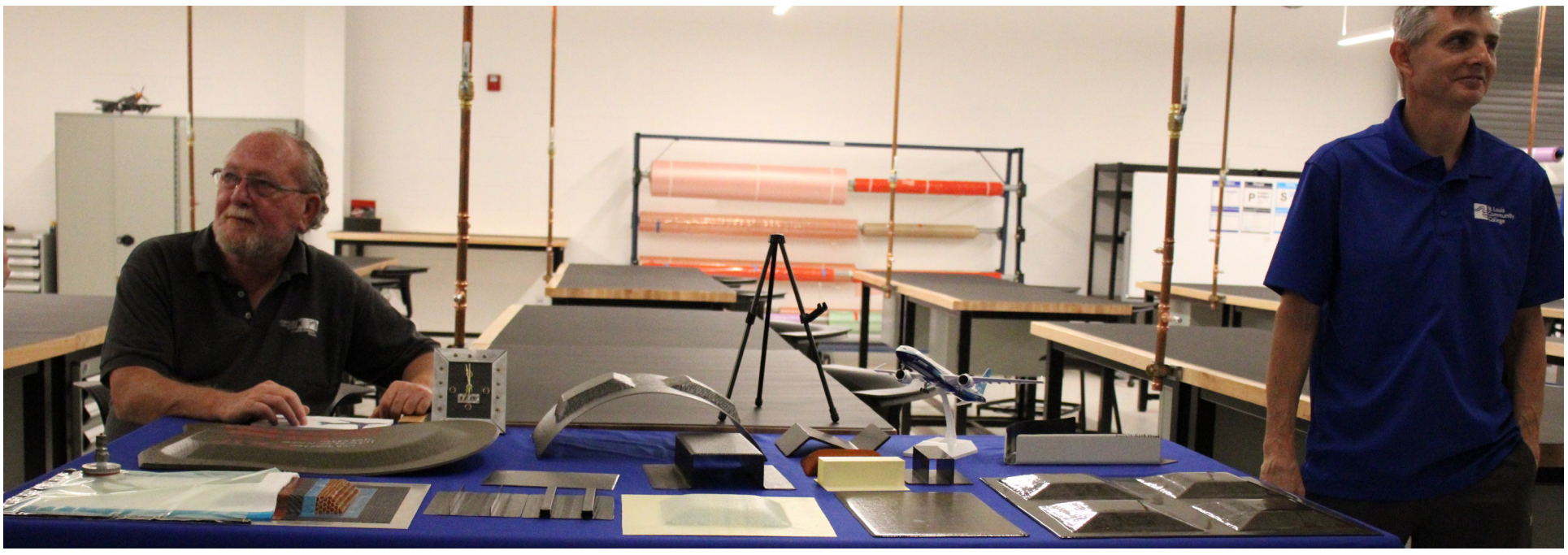

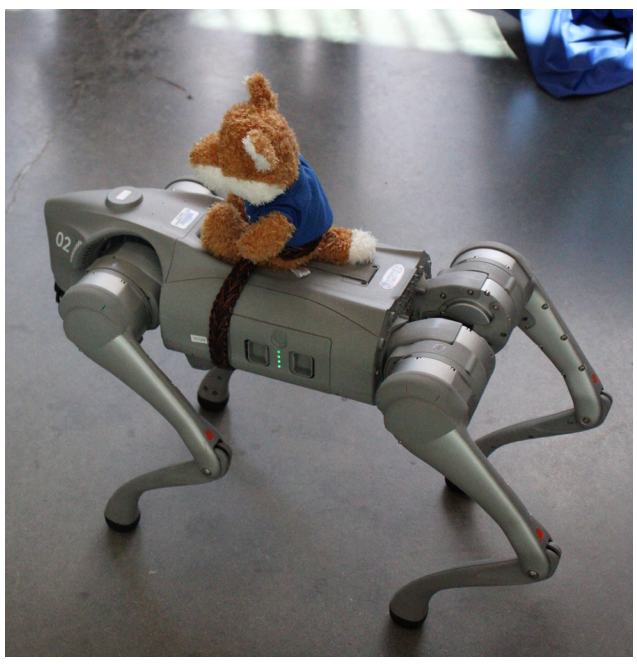

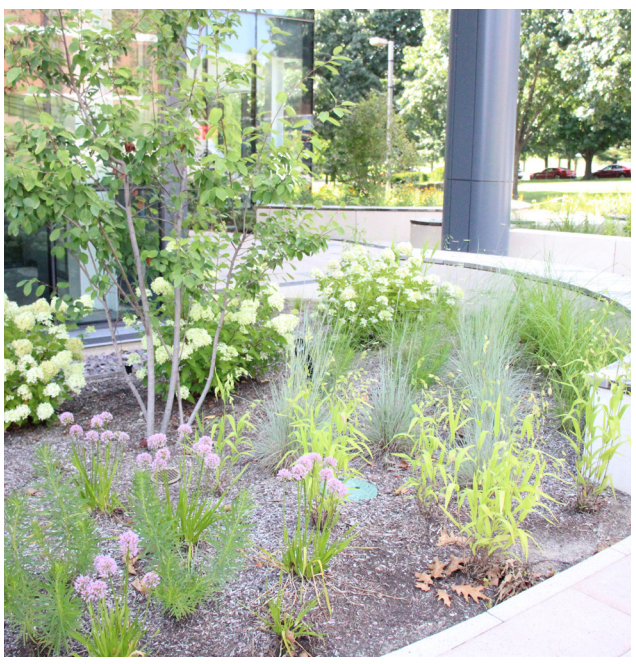

LINCOLN ELECTRIC

Mass Communications
Path to the future!

The Mass Communications Program at STLCC-FV offers students a variety of options to explore topics and gain hands-on experience working in print, video, and audio production.

Mass communication is generally considered a growing field. The field offers diverse career paths and job opportunities, particularly with the rise of digital media and online platforms. Industry publications suggest that demand for skilled professionals in mass communication is increasing.

Mass communication is a great career option!

With technological advancements and increasing demand for informative and entertaining content, this field has seen a massive increase in job opportunities. Knowing about the different career options after a mass communication degree can help you decide what type of job you want to pursue in this field.

Mass communication and specifically Digital communication is essential in our digital world. Major media outlets and production companies used to supply most of this labor force; however, this is no longer the case. We must train students to create video and audio and digital journalism because companies mostly rely on in-house production. Also, companies are always looking for these skills in employees in addition to positions they may have been hired to do. The ability to write and record audio and video are valuable skills for students.

Mass communication and specifically digital communication are essential tools in our digital world. The ability to write and record audio and video are desirable skills in today's market. STLCC-FV offers students the opportunity to create video, audio, and digital journalism, necessary skills for companies that rely on in-house production.

MCM 219 - Multimedia Applications

This course covers selected topics in multimedia production. Students use state-of-the-art equipment to produce beginning, intermediate or advanced projects in the area emphasized. Topics may include, but are not limited to, nonlinear video editing, video animation, digital audio production, etc. Course may be retaken for credit with different topics.
Prerequisite: Reading Proficiency.

MCM 130 - Film Appreciation (MOTR FILM 100)

Film Appreciation offers an introduction to the art, industry, culture, and experience of movies. Students study a variety of films, contemporary and classic, narrative and non-narrative, American and international.
Prerequisite: Reading Proficiency.

MCM 110 - Journalism I: Writing and Reporting

Contemporary newspaper writing and reporting techniques will be covered in this introductory course through discussions, readings, and practical exercises. The concepts of news coverage in the American press will be emphasized. Students are required to write news stories on a regular basis and apply skills in multimedia concepts.
Prerequisites: ENG 100 or ENG 101 with a minimum grade of "C" or permission of instructor and Reading Proficiency.

MCM 101 - Introduction to Mass Communications (MOTR SBSC 100)

Introduction to Mass Communications examines the nature and influence of mass media in our society. Students will analyze the impact media has throughout the world. Topics include mass media foundations, media's role in culture, ethics, influence on society, media methods, controls, gatekeeping, and world impact.
Prerequisite: Reading Proficiency.

Cruz Shines as *Rising Star*

Robert Cruz, STLCC's esports coordinator, received the Rising Star Award from the National Association of Esports Coaches and Directors. NAECAD is the primary professional organization for competitive esports coaches and directors at all levels — from club to professional and everything in between. Cruz guided the Archers esports team to a 102-49 record in its inaugural season last year, along with a trip to the NJCAA National Tournament and a national championship by Justin Smith.

Transportation Education Center *Open House*

July 31 | 3-6 p.m. | STLCC-Forest Park

Join us to celebrate STLCC Transformed with an Open House for the Transportation Education Center. This event will include tours, a chance to explore career pathways and experience live demonstrations.

Visit CPLS *Open House* Aug. 13

Aug. 13 | 4-7 p.m. | BRDG Park (Bio-Research Development and Growth Park) | 1005 N. Warson Road, 63132

The STLCC Center for Plant and Life Sciences will host an open house on Wednesday, Aug. 13, from 4-7 p.m. Prospective students (and parents) can view demonstrations, tour a lab and ask questions about the life sciences and biotech programs. The night will also include free food/drinks, activities and prizes for attendees.

Advanced Manufacturing Center

St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley

Welcome to the Advanced Manufacturing Center! This center unites short-term career training, degree, and certificate programs in STEM and advanced manufacturing, creating collaboration opportunities for our students, faculty, instructors and community partners. It will also house our new remote aircraft pilot certificate and our business and accounting programs.

- Incorporates sustainable design elements, including two green roofs, exterior solar shades and energy-efficient lighting
- Offers hallway windows looking into labs for accessible tours and program visibility
- Features an impressive main lobby and auditorium-style stairwell for student gatherings and hosting campus or community events
- Hosts a dedicated early college space for high school students pursuing a college degree alongside their high school diploma
- Includes an outdoor classroom with a large, netted enclosure for safe drone piloting practice

Building Facts

Size: 96,000 square feet
Cost: $51.8 Million
Architect: JEMA
Construction Manager: NAVIGATE Building Solutions
General Contractor: Kadean Construction

In addition to the three project partners, 50 companies were hired as subcontractors or suppliers, with around 400 workers involved in the construction phase. Most of these companies were based in the St. Louis region, and the project also provided apprenticeship opportunities for future tradespeople. **By partnering with local businesses and supporting apprenticeships, STLCC extends its investment in the community beyond education**—fostering economic growth, workforce development, and lasting connections.

Timeline

August 2023
Groundbreaking

February 2024
Superstructure complete

March 2025
Substantial completion
First students welcomed

April 2025
Ribbon cutting

August 2025
All programs available